

MERRIOTT MESSENGER

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August 2026

Cream Tea, Brass Bands and Sunshine at ARK

On a sunny afternoon in mid-June the ARK was definitely the place to be! Set up with marquees and sun-shades, we were entertained by the *Stoke-Sub-Hamdon Brass Band* while we tucked in to homemade cakes and scones with jam and cream.

The band were amazing, playing all sorts of music, not just your usual, traditional stuff. It was so lovely to see so many enjoying the afternoon — a quintessential British experience!

There was also Pimms, with lashings of fruit and ice, to quench your thirst; and, of course, a raffle... Who doesn't love a raffle?



The event was a fundraiser for the ARK at Egwood and all the churches in the benefice (*Merriott, Hinton, Lopen, Dinnington, Haselbury and North Perrott*). A whopping £1300 was raised to help with the community work of the ARK and the upkeep of our lovely church buildings.

A huge thanks to Amanda and Nigel for hosting this fab event and to all who contributed to making the afternoon such an amazing occasion.

Caroline Reeves — All Saints Church, Merriott

Merriott Messenger Information

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The information and views in the Merriott Messenger are those provided by the named individual contributors and are not necessarily supported by the Editorial Team. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the information given is accurate, the Merriott Messenger cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Back issues of Merriott Messenger (February 2016 - July 2026) can be found on the Parish website: <https://merriottpc.org.uk/the-merriott-messenger>

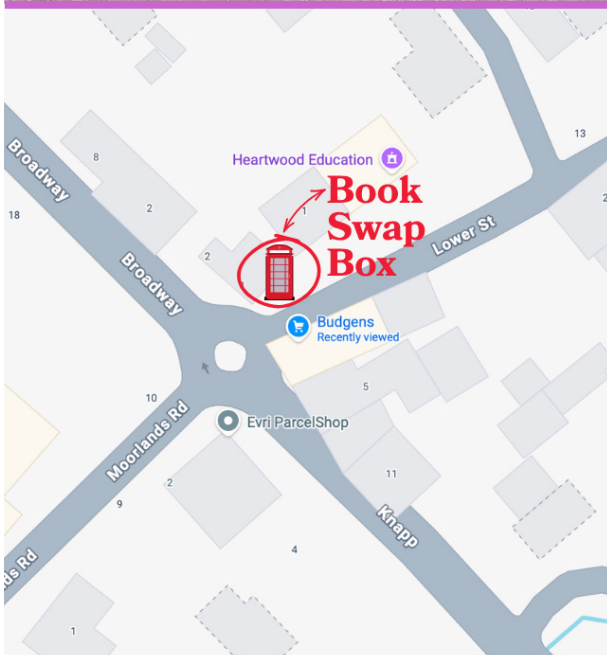
Copy date for the **September** issue is **10th August**.

Merriott Book Swap

We are very lucky to have a 'Book Swap Box' here in Merriott, with endless choices of reading materials. It's located in the centre of the village (near Budgens) and is free of charge. We are grateful to the ladies who take time and effort maintaining the Book Swap Box.

We would like to encourage you to send in your book reviews if you have borrowed from the Box, we might just feature them in an upcoming issue!

The Merriott Messenger Team



Merriott Gardening Club — All Things 100

Merriott Gardening Club are celebrating "all things 100" as a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II on what would have been her 100th birthday this year. The summer evening meeting on **Tuesday 28th July at 7.30pm in the Tithe Barn, Church Street** will be a fun-filled evening with an *all things 100* year anniversary quiz, Pimms, and scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream.

All are welcome to come along and join us in our celebrations — guests £3.

Gillian Vines — Merriott Gardening Club



PCSO Hickey at Merriott Pharmacy

August 20th 2026: 10am - 11am

PCSO Hickey will be in Merriott Pharmacy for consultation with any resident who wishes to talk to her.



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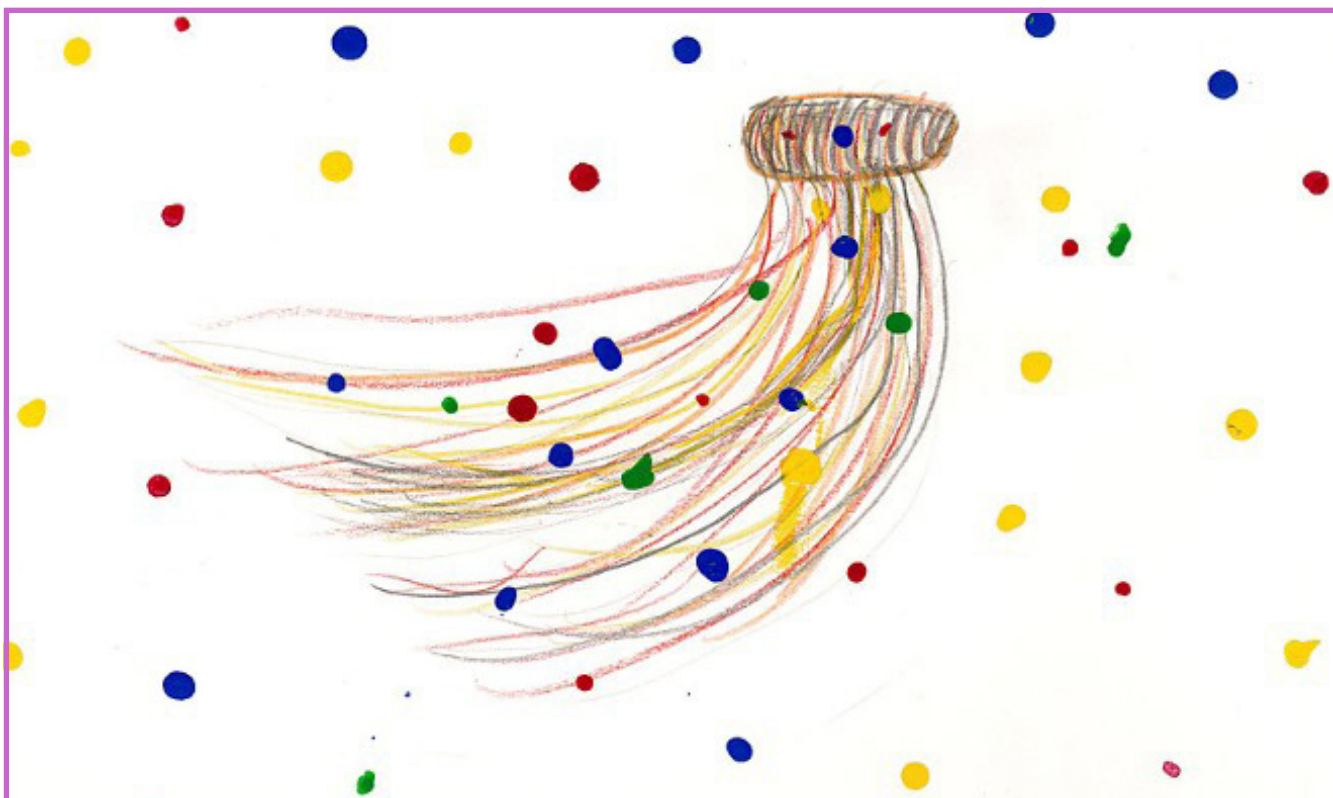
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yeovil@martinco.com

News From Merriott Primary School

It has been an exceptionally busy half-term at Merriott Primary School, with children across the school taking part in a range of educational visits and outdoor learning experiences. These trips not only enrich our curriculum but also create lasting memories and inspire a love of learning beyond the classroom. Our Year 5 pupils enjoyed an action-packed day at *Rockley Park*, where they took part in a variety of water sports activities. The highlight for many was the Mega SUP, which proved to be a huge favourite and generated plenty of laughter, teamwork, and adventure throughout the day. Meanwhile, our Year 3 and 4 children visited *Magdalene Farm*, where they immersed themselves in hands-on environmental learning. The children explored river habitats from within the river itself, tried their hand at pond dipping, and developed their scientific knowledge through animal classification activities. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect learning with the natural world. Finally, our Year 2 children travelled to *Lyme Regis* for a fossil-hunting adventure along the famous Jurassic Coast. They thoroughly enjoyed searching for fossils and discovering more about the area's fascinating prehistoric past.

Closer to home, our Year 5 pupils have been busy transforming a public footpath in Merriott into a magical outdoor art gallery. If you have the opportunity, we encourage you to take a stroll through the fields and discover their wonderful creations. Hidden along the trail, you will find tiny homes and colourful pom-pom sprites; bringing imagination, creativity, and a splash of colour to our beautiful countryside. To find the start of the trail, simply use **What3Words: ///shredding.pads.beamed**. We are sure you will be amazed and delighted by what you discover along the way.



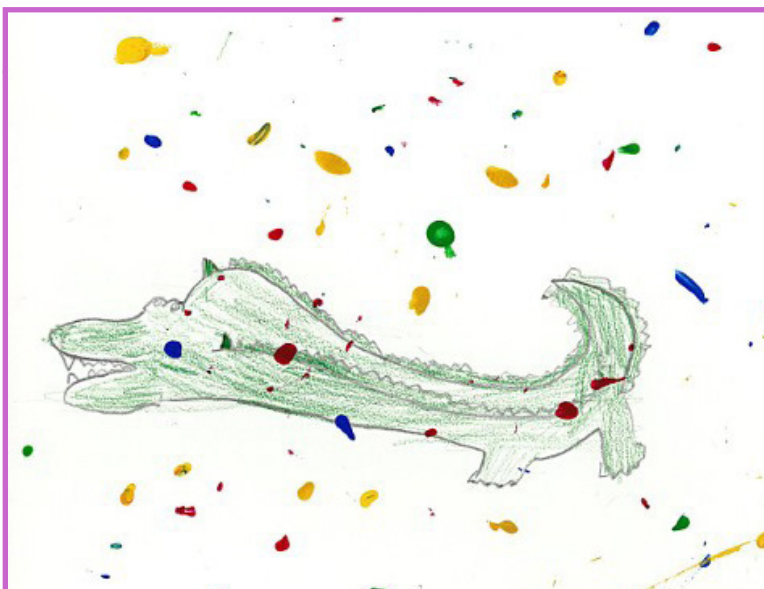
Artwork pictured created by Year 3 and 4 pupils at Merriott Primary School

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has donated books to our school through the *Green Dragon Bookshop* in Crewkerne. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and is helping us continue to foster a love of reading throughout our school community.

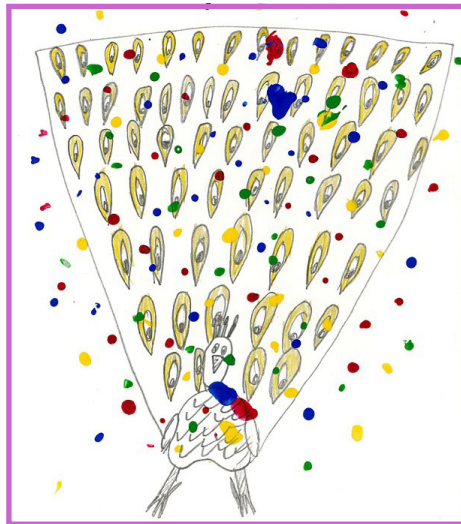
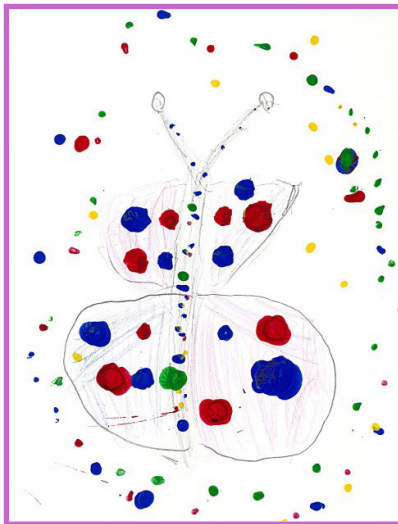
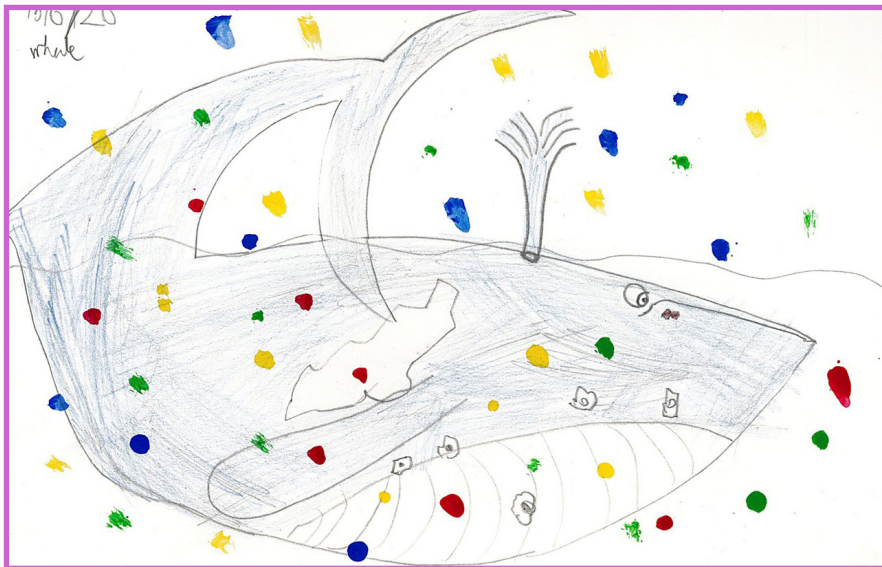
Looking ahead, we are excited to begin a very special year. In the coming school year, Merriott Primary School will celebrate its 150th anniversary. We have many exciting plans to mark this important milestone and are looking forward to sharing our celebrations and learning with you all over the coming months.

Finally, we are delighted to share with you some beautiful artwork created by our talented Year 3 and 4 pupils.

Nicky Taylor, Senior Teacher — Merriott Primary School



Year 3 and 4 Artwork — Merriott Primary School



News From Merriott Social Venue

A volunteer day is being organised for August 12th and 13th for anyone who would be willing to help with some odd jobs around the Social Venue — a free soft drink to all helpers. This is prior to our jumble sale on August 15th.

We now have a website as well as our Facebook presence, this can be found at merriottsocialvenue.co.uk

An exciting new range of beers is coming, along with our new chiller which will replace the inadequate old one.

Our AGM will be in September, date to be announced, all are welcome to attend.

On Friday September 11th we are holding **Music Bingo**, with a disco and prizes to be won — tickets available now at £10 for two games.

Our big screen coverage of the World Cup has been very successful and well supported.

Skittles, darts, and pool teams continue — we still have vacancies for skittles teams and places in our very high standard karate club, all ages welcome.

David Green — Merriott Social Venue



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Facebook: ARB Tree & Grounds management

Planning Applications

The Old Vicarage, Church Street:
Notification of intent to fell and replace 1 tree within a conservation area. 26/01417/TCA Status:
Awaiting decision.

Land at Goldwell Farm, Yeovil Road: *Discharge of Several Conditions (see website for details). 25/02385/DOC1 Decision:*
Conditions discharged.

Land South of Church Street:
Discharge of Condition No 07 (BEP) of planning application 23/00296/REM. 26/01095/DOC1 Status:
Application Refused.

For further information, go to Somerset.gov.uk and "Search for planning application".

Marion Biggs

16 Bells Choir — 10th Anniversary Summer Concert

The 16 Bells Choir gave their 10th Anniversary Summer Concert in Merriott Church on Saturday July 11th. The Concert was introduced to a large audience by Rev. Julia Hicks. The Choir performed a varied selection of pieces; one, in which the Choir Director, *Rachel Pitman*, played the ukelele, invited for audience participation. The concert was very enjoyable and thanks at the end were given by Rev. Bob Hicks, who hoped the Choir would keep going for at least another 10 years! Flowers were presented to the Choir Director and the Accompanist.

The Choir is completely free to join, this concert was an opportunity to raise funds towards purchasing choir music and also to contribute to the upkeep of the wonderful church where they rehearse and performed.

The 16 Bells Choir is a friendly, non-auditioned group of enthusiastic people who love to get together to sing. They meet once a fortnight on Wednesday evenings (during term time) in Merriott and sing at a variety of special services, concerts and occasions throughout the year across the six churches of the Benefice.

They would welcome new members, especially Basses, to their ranks. Simply come along to a rehearsal or email the choir director, Rachel Pitman, at rachelapitman@gmail.com

John Bowman



Merriott Camera Club and Heritage Trust JOINT EXHIBITION

*A celebration of
photography and
village history*



**Merriott Village
Hall, 26th and 27th
September 2026,
10am to 4pm**

**FREE
ENTRY**

Refreshments available from Mandie's Cakes and Bakes

CHARITY Bread, Cheese & Pudding Supper with QUIZ EVENING

All funds
raised will
support



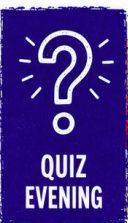
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BREAD &
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DELICIOUS
PUDDINGS



QUIZ
EVENING



SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER



6:30 pm for a **7:00 pm** start



MERRIOTT VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS

£12.50

Tickets available at:

- BUDGENS
- MERRIOTT SERVICE STATION



Come along with friends, family, or form a quiz team
and enjoy an evening of good food, friendly competition
and fundraising for a worthy cause.

BAR AND RAFFLE!

All Saints Church Services in August



All at All Saints Merriott (unless stated otherwise)

Sunday 2nd August

6.30pm *Praise Service*, Merriott Tithe Barn
(supper served at 5.30pm)

Sunday 9th August

10.30am *Communion*

Sunday 16th August

10.30am *Morning Prayer*

Sunday 23rd August

9am *Communion* (trad. language)

Sunday 30th August

10.30am *Benefice Communion to Celebrate Generosity*,
Haselbury Church (Church Lane, Haselbury Plucknett, TA18 7RE)
5pm 'Beer and Hymns', Dinnington Docks (Fosse way,
Dinnington, TA17 8SX)

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2026

As we approach another Christmas, we will once again be sending filled shoeboxes to children and adults in Ukraine, where there is still desperate need. There is such joy and gratitude when the boxes are delivered!

We would like to invite you to contribute in whichever way you can. Details and instructions can be found on leaflets in the pharmacy or the church from the beginning of September:

- ◇ Fill a box for a chosen age and gender
- ◇ Donate fillers from the items suggested in the leaflet
- ◇ Donate gifts to help cover transport costs, and to buy more fillers
- ◇ Donate spare, empty medium-sized shoeboxes

Contributions can be dropped off at any time to **12 Higher Beadon, Merriott**. Telephone: **74917**, mobile: **07799 941332**.
Closing date: **7th November**.

We are deeply grateful for all your help.

Beryl Virgin and team

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September 2026 marks the 20 year anniversary of the Merriott Messenger being produced monthly in its present format. This publication forms an integral part of Merriott village life and is managed and produced by a willing band of volunteers.

Distributors are the final link in the chain for ensuring that every property in Merriott and the surrounding area receive a copy of each monthly issue. **Do you have an hour to spare each month (excluding January) to deliver this important publication to our readers?**

Please see the Merriott Messenger Information details on the front page of this issue for the names and contact details of our distribution team who will be happy to give you more information.

MERRIOTT MESSENGER
Your village ... your news

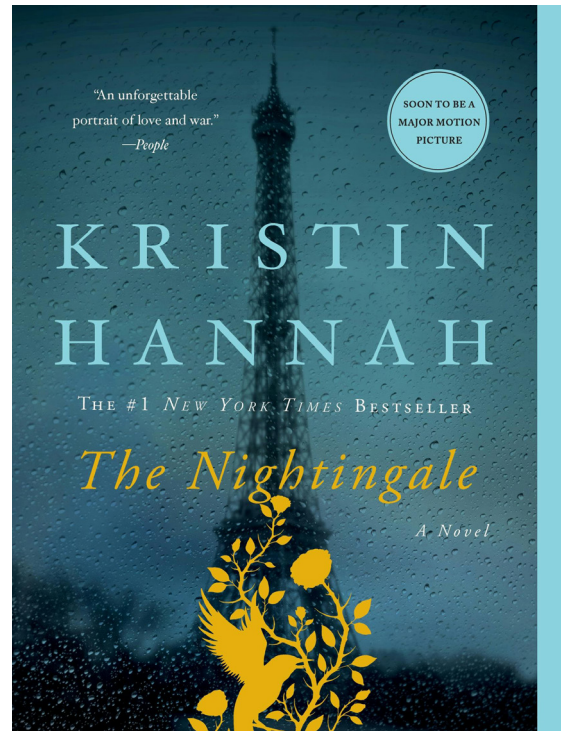
Book Review: The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

I have recently been enjoying the novels of *Kristin Hannah*, a bestselling American writer. "*The Nightingale*" is set in occupied France during the Second World War and describes the lives of two sisters and their contrasting experiences at a time of extreme difficulty and hardship. This is a period which has already been written about a great deal — vivid tales of courage like "*Charlotte Gray*" or "*All the Light we Cannot See*" for instance, but this one doesn't disappoint.

"*The Nightingale*" takes the reality of the ordinary day to day, perhaps even humdrum, life of one sister in an occupied country, and contrasts it with the more dramatic experiences of the other. The way Hannah deals with the family relationships is absorbing, very real, and ultimately very moving. I am not surprised to learn that a film of the book is in the making and due to be released in 2026.

Hannah has written an impressive list of novels, among them: "*Home Front*" — dealing with women helicopter pilots in the Iraq War; "*The Women*" — celebrating American Nurses serving in the Vietnam War; and "*Winter Garden*" — set in Alaska but with a background dealing with the siege of Leningrad in World War Two. She is skilled in illustrating the demands and strains that war puts on human relationships and weaves an intriguing plot. When you discover a good writer it's worth seeking out their other work!

Sheila Bowman



Live Music at St George's Hall

THE COOLTONES

'the very best of 20th and 21st-century rock, roll & pop'

**St George's Hall
Hinton St George**

Friday 21 August 7.30pm

Doors open 7pm

Tickets £15 each, available in advance from Our SHOP, Hinton St George. For BACS payments or enquiries contact Emma Way

emmaaway@btinternet.com or 01460 55965

CASH BAR. Any proceeds to St Nicholas Church

The fabulous CoolTones, successor band to The BeachBoyz Tribute Band, are coming to play St George's Hall in Hinton on *Friday 21st August*.

If you enjoy music from the '50s to the '80s and beyond, this event is for you. Expect lots of danceable numbers and superb musicianship.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets at £15 (no concessions) are now on sale at Our Shop in Hinton; or, if you'd prefer to pay by BACS, or have any other queries, please contact Emma Way on emmaaway@btinternet.com.

There will be a cash bar with any proceeds from the evening going to St Nicholas' Church in Dinnington.

Emma Way

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**THE KINGS HEAD
MERRIOTT**
Tel: 01460 711500
bookings@kingsheadmerriott.co.uk

Continued on Page 8!

ANYONE FOR



We are a group of part time workers/retirees who play tennis every Friday at 10:00 on the courts at Merriott recreation ground. We are looking for new players to join us. Nothing too strenuous or competitive, more to just get some outdoor exercise. The courts are free and we have spare rackets. If you're interested contact Andrew on 01460 78297 or Graham on 07546 016412 or just turn up on a Friday at 10:00.

Thank you to our sponsors for their support

 Haselbury Mill Sunday Carvery Available Every Sunday From 12pm To 5pm 01460 331 111 01460 331 111 Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Park, Dorset, DT10 1JH	Health Alternative Sports, Remedial & Holistic Massage Victoria Waight Moorlands Court, Merriott 07801 031 532 <i>Massage for a healthy lifestyle</i>	R. A. Wicks Ltd Fireplace Showroom, Flue Lining and Multi Fuel Stoves 01460 74612	CHEDINGTON compost Compost, Manure, Top Soil, Mulch, Logs, & Chippings 01308 863 054 chedingtoncompost.co.uk	Jo's Mobile Ear Syringing Experienced nurse offering ear syringing in the comfort of your own home www.josmobileearsyringing.co.uk 07714436048 josmobileearsyringing@gmail.com Facebook: Jo's Mobile Ear Syringing
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Careford Lodge Residential Home Church Street Contact Laura on 01460 75592 carefordlodge@hotmail.co.uk	Tom Merrick Electrical Contractor Agricultural & Industrial No Job too small NAPIT approved contractor 01460 72757 07980 686 160	Nigel's Window Cleaning Company Telephone - 01823 975372 Mobile - 07818697423	EAR WAX REMOVAL SOLUTIONS Book a home appointment today 0800 001 6608 www.earwaxremovalsolutions.com Info@earwaxremovalsolutions.com	WindowMan WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES 16 South Street Crewkerne TA18 8DA 01460 200666 5% off our advertised price for people of Merriott
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